

LONDON, AUGUST 26, 1852.

The affairs of India are every day becoming more and more interesting; for, independent of the many circumstances which will render the construction of a charter by the British Parliament, by which the honorable company is to hold and govern that vast, rich, and beautiful country for the next term of twenty years, a work of very great difficulty, a number of other causes are at work, adding perplexity to perplexity, creating new interests, new rights, and new subjects to legislate upon, all showing the progress which knowledge—natural, civil, and political—is making in that bright and glorious land; all showing the rapid strides which the people, both native and of foreign origin, are taking towards a fitness for self-government, and a power of obtaining and retaining it. And there are other indications abundantly showing that the time is rapidly approaching when the true interests of the East India Company will be best promoted by tacitly allowing the vast territory over which it now rules to assume legislative functions and governmental power for itself; and when the British Government will find it advantageous to abandon the system of the three Presidencies of Madras, Calcutta, and Bombay. We alluded last week to the steps taken by the Sirdars and native gentlemen of POONAH in reference to the new charter, and further attention to late Indian news convinces us that the movement is spreading far and wide, and that the native nobles, and men of influence, and of large landed property, and extensive mercantile operations are fully alive to the important position which they hold and to the right which they have to be no longer denied taking a share in the Government of the country. And add to these the intelligent half-castes, the sons of European fathers and Indian mothers, of whom several millions exist in the country; they were calculated at 1,500,000 in 1815. A large proportion of the men of this race are well educated, many of them hold important positions in society, and discharge their duties in a satisfactory and exemplary manner; they are all warmly attached to their native land, and generally well informed as to its real interests, and anxious for its moral, social, and political progress. The late Lord THOMAS, WARREN HASTINGS, and other high authorities on Indian affairs were well convinced that these half-castes would occupy an important position and play a very influential part in the future history of India; and your enlightened neighbor, the late THOMAS LAW, Esq., has frequently, in our hearing, expressed the same opinion. These half-castes possess a more vigorous physical frame, and generally a more active and energetic mental constitution, than the natives, and are, at the same time, better calculated to bear the climate of the country than Europeans.

The charter of the East India Company has been hitherto renewed for periods of twenty years; if again renewed for that term, such renewal will extend to 1874. There appears to be an indisposition on the part of the British Government to make any material alteration in the charter. Lord JOHN RUSSELL refused to grant a committee in 1851 to inquire into the subject, alleging that no alteration was necessary, and that "India was better governed than either Turkey or Persia;" an observation altogether unworthy of the great Whig leader. And now that a committee has been raised, Mr. HARRIS, the chairman of it, and President of the Board of Control, whose official duty it is to prepare the charter and arrange its details, says, "so far as he is at present advised, the present charter is as good as need be." Notwithstanding these opinions, however, of official men, it is an absolute certainty that no renewal of the present charter will satisfy the present inhabitants of India; and further, if great ameliorations are not made in the forthcoming charter, England may, about 1876, have to deal with a revolution in the East quite as difficult to control, and very likely to be attended with the same result, as the revolution in the West with which she had to contend in 1776. There is nothing in the present condition of the world which affords materials for so much speculation respecting the future as the British Empire in India. There is nothing in history which can be quoted as a precedent; the subject is overwhelming from its magnitude, and perplexing from its intricacy and the multiplicity of its interests. It would be doubting the wisdom and care of Providence to suppose that the emergency will not be provided for, and that the result will not be favorable to the peace and progress and happiness of mankind. But Great Britain may do much to prepare for the crisis, by spreading education and sound social and moral habits and correct notions of justice and political rights among the people of India; governing them by a liberal and enlightened policy, and preparing them to assume the position—to which events are not very slowly hastening them—of a free and independent people.

In the mean time, British power in India is extending itself in new directions, and reaching further in old ones. The war in Burmah and Ava can terminate only in one way, in annexation. This will be done, it is thought, by the cession of nearly one-half of the territory of the King of Ava to "our ally" the Rajah of Manipur, which would still leave to the King of Ava a territory of more than twice the extent of the Kingdom of Nepal. The Indian journals say, "annexation, even were it not, as it undoubtedly is, most desirable in a political and commercial point of view, is unavoidable. The only question is, how much of the country it would be necessary to annex to protect the inhabitants who have exposed our cause from the reprisals of the Burmese, and to incapacitate the King of Ava from putting us to the expense of another war."

It is now generally stated and admitted that Parliament will meet on Thursday, the 11th of November next, for the "dispatch of business." There will be a short session of four or five weeks before Christmas, and, unless something important and unforeseen shall occur in the mean time, the members will then be liberated for Christmas. Rumors abound about fierce dissensions in the Ministry on the question of protection, and these can only be settled, it is said, by the election of some of the more troublesome and obstinate adherents to that exploded fallacy. Mr. CHRISTOPHER WILKINSON, it is believed, is elevated to the peerage, Mr. WALPOLE will succeed to the vacant Vice-Chancellorship, and Lord STRATFORD take Lord MALMESBURY's place as Secretary for Foreign Affairs. The elections have, according to the latest calculations, resulted as follows:

Ministerial.	Liberals.	Lib. Cons.
English and Welsh counties.....	120	28
English and Welsh boroughs.....	107	156
Scottish counties.....	12	19
Scottish boroughs.....	22	1
Irish counties.....	24	36
Irish boroughs.....	14	2
277	307	70

The election in 1847 showed the following results: Liberals, 386; Protectionists, 201; Peellites, 117.

The publication of the new edition of Don's *Parliamentary Companion* has led to many curious analyses of the construction of the new Legislature. Thus, as respects the rank, titles, and degrees of the members of the new House of Commons, it is found that it contains 106 sons of peers, 66 baronets, 3 city knights, 154 large landed proprietors without titles, 101 barristers, 18 attorneys, 99 merchants, manufacturers, &c., 20 bankers, 5 engineers, builders, &c., 3 medical men, 11 railway magnates, 6 Irish peers, 62 various, not classed, but principally army and navy officers. There are, however, in the House of Commons 67 officers of the army and 18 naval officers. On no previous occasion since the reform act has a Parliament met without some popular member having been returned from two places. Knareborough, having a right to return two members, has returned three, each with the same number of votes.

Two hundred and one persons who had not seats in the late House of Commons are members of the new one; of whom 180 were never previously in Parliament and 21 now return to it. With the exception of the election of 1847, so large an amount of change has not taken place

since the passage of the reform act in 1832, when there were 280 new members elected.

The following statement is made with relation to the House of Peers, showing that that august body must be replenished by some new creations, or it will be in danger of extinction. The present number of Peers having seats in the House of Lords—for it must be remembered that only 16 Scotch peers and 32 Irish ones (including 4 bishops) are entitled to that honor—is 440. Of this number no fewer than 53 are without heirs male, either apparent or presumptive, and consequently (upon their demise without issue) their titles will become extinct. Amongst these are the celebrated names of Cornwallis, Durham, Selkirk, Canning, Melbourne, Brougham, Douglas, Fairfax, Holland, Keith, Lyndhurst, Manners, Ranelagh, and Sydney. In addition to these, no fewer than twenty-eight titles have either become extinct or have merged into others within a very few years; among these several names of great notoriety.

The Commissioners on Emigration report that the total emigration from Ireland in 1851 was 257,372, and that this year it will be considerably increased. Another remarkable fact is, that this emigration is self-sustained; in other words, it pays its own expenses, at least so far as the United States and Canada are concerned. The Commissioners state that last year there was either remitted from America, or expended for prepaid passages to America, by Irish settlers there, no less than £990,000 to enable their friends and relatives to follow them to their adopted homes. The number of emigrants from Ireland to the United States and Canada in 1851 was 228,010; the whole cost of which, as steamer passengers, would be £892,931 4s. 6d., or nearly £100,000 less than the sum absolutely required to be paid, and which was retained, no doubt, for the use of relatives remaining in Ireland. This is a very suggestive subject, which we will not further pursue at present. Ireland diminished 1,659,330 in her population between 1841 and 1851, and the result of fair calculation is, that there was a further decrease of 192,215 last year. Taking the United Kingdom as a whole, the annual increase of births over deaths will do little more than balance the annual emigration. Ireland will decrease this year 215,183; Great Britain will increase 227,368. For the first time since record, without famine or plague, the population of the United Kingdom has become stationary.

The excitement which prevailed on both sides of the Atlantic on the fisheries question having greatly subsided here, as well as we hope and trust, with you, the public are now in a position calmly to review the points at issue, and are more likely to form a correct conclusion respecting them than they would have done a fortnight ago. After considering the whole business with the best lights which we possess, we are irresistibly led to the conclusion that a great blunder, to give it no harsher name, was committed by her Majesty's Government. We are willing to make allowances for the inexperience of Lord MALMESBURY and Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, and to believe that they were actuated by a laudable desire to do something that should distinguish their short official reign, and render them greater favorites with British colonists than they are with their fellow-subjects at home; but we cannot offer one word in palliation of the rude haste with which they threw themselves in *media res*, and endangered the amicable relations existing between England and the United States. We think that Lord DUNDY himself very soon discovered that in sending, without notice, armed men-of-war to seize American vessels for doing that which they had done for thirty years with impunity, a great discourtesy, as well as a great mistake, had been committed. The Morning Herald very soon announced that her Majesty's Government never intended to assert any new principle, and that they had only resolved, at the request of the North American colonies, to carry out the provisions of the treaty of 1818.

The guano question, in connection with the Lobos Islands and the Peruvian Government, is exciting great attention here. The general opinion is adverse to Mr. WEBSTER's conclusions upon the subject. Several pamphlets have been published, and the *Times* and *Daily News* have almost daily articles about it. The annual consumption of Peruvian guano in this country is estimated at 150,000 tons, for which £9 5s. per ton is paid. All above £5 per ton is said to be profit to the Peruvian Government; hence the profit, at 25s. per ton, amounts to £987,500. We annex an article from yesterday's *Daily News*, and also an extract from the leader in that paper of this morning, which may show the views and feelings entertained here upon the subject:

From yesterday's *Daily News*.
In confirmation of the remarks made by us yesterday on Mr. DANIEL WEBSTER's hasty assumption, on behalf of the United States, of the Lobos Islands, we have received the subjoined communication:

To the Editor of the *Daily News*.
LONDON, AUGUST 24, 1852.
SIR: In order to throw some new light on the question of the Lobos Islands, which it would appear that American agents are anxious to claim as being the discovery of Captain Morrell in 1822, I beg to refer you to the following extracts from the "Diccionario Geografico Historico de las Indias Occidentales o America," published at Madrid in 1785, and translated by Col. Dr. Antonio de Alsedo. Under the head of Peru it gives the names of the principal cities, barbarous nations, rivers, lakes, mountains, seaports, &c., and islands.
Among the latter, at page 173, vol. IV, is specified Lobos. In page 398 of vol. II, under the head of Peru, are mentioned several lakes and islands, amongst them the following:
"Another island (called Lobos) in the South Sea, off the coast of the province and jurisdiction of Cancha, in Peru; it bears the surname of Peto, to distinguish it from others; it is uninhabited, (desert), only navigable or sailable (barkable) being found there; it is situated at a distance of 36 miles south of the city of Lima."
"Another, on the same coast of Peru, in the province and jurisdiction of Santa, called the 'Windward,' to distinguish it from another island in this province, of the same name, which is inhabited, and its situation bears the point of Agnos."
"Another island in the South Sea, called 'Los Silvestres,' (wooly Lobos), off the coast of the province and jurisdiction of Loja, in Peru."
This, I think, will be sufficient to satisfy any impartial person as to the title to these islands.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,
J. M.

P.S. The word Lobos is a pure Castilian word, which means wolf.

The public must receive with great caution the accounts in the American papers relative to the alleged proceedings of the United States Government in regard to the seizure or forcible occupancy of the Lobos Islands. We believe it will be found that the Government of the Republic does not at all agree with the course taken by Mr. WEBSTER, reports of which the American Cabinet have already been referred to. We hear it stated in a well-informed quarter that, since the publication of the papers laid before the British Parliament, the American Cabinet is inclined to coincide with the decided opinion of Mr. ASHLEY LARSEN, the United States representative in England, and recognize the title to the Lobos Islands to the United States. It is probable that, in the event of the American vessels which have proceeded to Lobos actually landing guano there, the matter will be settled by the Peruvian Government protesting against such a proceeding, and claiming of the American Government the full fair price for every ton of guano so carried away. Due regard must also be had to the fact that the guano of the Lobos Islands, owing to its being the produce of the sea or sea-wolf, is from twenty-five to thirty-three per cent. worse than the guano of the Chincha Islands. In any case, however, looking now merely at the English bondholders' side of the question, it behooves them to at once make a stand in defence of the security specially hypothecated for the payment of the dividends, and, in public meeting, draw up a strong protest against any undue action on the part of the American Government. The measure would certainly be attended with a good effect.

From the *Daily News* of this morning.

Lord MALMESBURY, ever the friend of monopoly, has recognized the pretensions of Peru to the Lobos Islands. Mr. WEBSTER, on the contrary, had up to June last been unable to discover the justness of these pretensions, and had promised American shipping military protection in treating them as open to the world. In these opposite conclusions of the English and American Governments there is perhaps equal precipitation. In such a case as this Lord MALMESBURY might advantageously have suspended English doubts and hesitation over the policy of the Peruvian Government, and have seen whether their expression would not have suggested some concessions out of it; and Mr. WEBSTER, if his letter contain a summary of all the information the American Government had in June last obtained, is obviously very imperfectly instructed and advised in coming to the very large and positive conclusion so grave a point of public law he has done. In the hands of an able and useful Foreign Secretary the Lobos Islands question might have been used to mitigate the weight on English agriculture of the guano monopoly; and as the course which the American Government would pursue on the question might easily have been foreseen by an English statesman of experience, such a course could not have been very far from achievement. Whereas Lord MALMESBURY, doing nothing but coming to a hasty opinion, and giving it premature publicity, has really encouraged a difficulty between the United States and Peru; in which, though the American Government

may be wrong, Lord MALMESBURY's friends here will be very glad to take the substantial advantage of its wrong-doing.

The commercial position assumed by Peru in the question of the Lobos Islands is that the rest of the world should not have any advantage from this enlargement of the field of guano supply. Peru seeks to have her claims on these islands recognized, that she may by the recognition prolong her monopoly, and maintain the present enormous charge for guano. Such a use of the Lobos Islands is contrary to the general policy of nations, to freedom of trade, and the interests of the great human family. It cannot and ought not to find favor with the rest of the world; and though such conduct cannot excuse, still less justify, aggression or trespass on Peruvian territory, it is not a matter to be calmly and philosophically submitted to. It is a most subject for complaint and remonstrance; and, if they be unheeded, for retaliation.

Lord MALMESBURY's treatment of this question is the more to be regretted, seeing that, if the American Government persist in its announcement to protect American shipping taking guano from the Lobos Islands, as Peru has some armed force there, to re-inforce which a fine war steamer left England a month ago, a collision is more than probable; and, in the event of any rupture between the two countries, the Americans would quickly be the successful party. Already the American Government and people are big with ambitious projects in the Pacific; and, when they shall have established a great naval arsenal in San Francisco, they will "go ahead" fast and furious in those seas. They want but a whet to their appetite alike; and long to be given them by this Lobos Islands dispute. With the practicability of constructing routes across the great isthmus of Central America demonstrated, it is not in American nature or character long to resist the temptation of further attacks on Mexico; and the probability is that the next Presidency will lead to "action" in respect of the route from the Gulf of Campeche to the Gulf of Tehuantepec, only 120 miles in length, and across an accessible country.

All these questions are inseparably interwoven with the policy and proceedings of the Americans in the Pacific Ocean; and, though it may be that British interests are to be reconciled with further extensions of American territory on the side of Mexico, no prudent British statesman will do so without a great naval arsenal in San Francisco, they will "go ahead" fast and furious in those seas. They want but a whet to their appetite alike; and long to be given them by this Lobos Islands dispute. With the practicability of constructing routes across the great isthmus of Central America demonstrated, it is not in American nature or character long to resist the temptation of further attacks on Mexico; and the probability is that the next Presidency will lead to "action" in respect of the route from the Gulf of Campeche to the Gulf of Tehuantepec, only 120 miles in length, and across an accessible country.

Gold keeps pouring in from our antipodes. The yield of the Australian gold fields during the year which has just elapsed since their discovery is ascertained to be 1,224,415 ounces, or 41 tons 10 cwt. 69 pounds 3 ounces, worth, at 24 the ounce, £4,497,060. The sale of licenses to the end of March had produced £74,079. The financial position of these colonies is highly prosperous; the development of their mineral and agricultural resources, and the rapid increase of their population, will soon place Australia in a very prominent position among civilized communities. Dr. LAMB is writing long letters urging the cultivation of cotton, tobacco, and flax, improvement in the quality of the wool, and manufacture of wine. The country is evidently destined to march to wealth, power, and independence with rapid and giant strides.

We anticipated last week a large increase in the bullion of the Bank of England; the returns show an addition of no less than £452,487, the total amount being £21,926,127; the circulation is £22,952,559; having decreased £180,849; the surplus fund is £12,973,572. The money market is a little "border," and there is a gradually increasing demand. There is no alteration in the exchanges. The funds have fluctuated during the week, but have advanced upon the whole, Consols leaving off last night at 100½. Railway and mining shares are also in demand. There is a project in contemplation for uniting the Great Western and Northwestern lines under one management, and amalgamating the two vast concerns. Public opinion is a good deal divided as to the expediency of this arrangement.

The theatrical and literary worlds are blanks as respects novelty or interest. Many of your readers will regret that, owing to the state of Mr. MACAULAY's health, there is a strong probability he will not be able to take his seat in Parliament for Edinburgh. His medical attendants have advised him to refrain from taking part in any public business whatever.

The Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's have agreed to commence a series of extensive decorations upon that Cathedral. The interior of the cupola is to be restored to the state in which it was placed by Sir JOHN TOWNSEND, and as designed by Sir CHRISTOPHER WREN. The twenty-three lower windows are to be reglazed with sculpture subjects in stained glass, in the Italian style, and in union with the architecture of the building, &c. The last remains of the Crystal Palace, except the floor, have been removed. The "digging" below the floor are now about to commence, and unthought of treasures are expected to be found, and the most extravagant prices have been offered for the privilege of searching the ground. There were certainly great facilities for valuables to pass through the floor, but we never heard of any thing of importance having been lost, and therefore expect that nothing of value will be found.

Our foreign budget is remarkably meager. The late fete in Paris is regarded as a failure; it did not produce any satisfactory demonstration in favor of the President, and it fell very far short of its anticipated attractions to the people. The weather was unpropitious, rumors of plots and conspiracies were very prevalent, and the President, from some cause or other, did not appear at the ball of the market women. As he is very desirous of popularity, it is believed that an important reason could only have decided him not to appear. The ball was indeed something very curious. About 20,000 persons were present. The market people had been at great expense for their toilet. One of them, who was *queen* of the ball, and expected to have danced with the Prince President, was decorated with about £1,200 worth of diamonds. The higher classes of society were numerously represented at the ball, and the whole went off in good republican style. The absence of the President, and the rumors respecting the cause of it, cast, however, a great damp upon the otherwise festive scene. M. THIERS and ALEXANDRE DUMAS have returned to Paris. Generals CAVAIGNAC, BEAUREGARD, CHANGARNIER, and DE LAMORICIERE have been definitively struck off the list of the army. It is expected that the Cabinet will very shortly receive additional modifications. M. PERSIGNY's state of health will, it is said, prevent his continuing in office.

Spain and Portugal are this week social and political blanks; and Italy is very little better. The formation of the Pontifical army at Rome is proceeding so unsatisfactorily that it was considered probable the French would not evacuate the city at the close of the year. The King of Naples has at last, entertained the proposition of an English company to construct a railway from Naples to Brindisi. The work, however, depends upon British capitalists having sufficient faith to bring the speculation into the market at home, for certainly at the present moment no capital will be found in Naples. The guaranty of the Neapolitan Government will not be considered very good security when the following statement of the revenue and expenditure is exhibited:

Revenue.	Ducats.	Expenditure.	Ducats.
War Department.....	24,700,000	War Department.....	18,000,000
Marine.....	2,200,000	Marine.....	2,200,000
Interior.....	1,485,000	Interior.....	1,485,000
Foreign intercourse, justice, &c.....	1,402,676	Foreign intercourse, justice, &c.....	1,402,676
Public instruction and public works.....	3,304,064	Public instruction and public works.....	3,304,064
Annual deficiency.....	16,192,349		

It should be remembered that the Neapolitan Government publishes no financial statements whatever, so that the public are in entire ignorance of the amount of Government paper in circulation. The resources of the Two Sicilies are very great, but the country cannot support the present expenditure. The taxes cannot well be increased; real property at present paying twenty per cent. per annum.

The VIENNA papers are filled with elaborate descriptions of the spectacles and processions which greeted the Emperor on his return from his Hungarian tour, which the Government papers would make the world believe was little short of a continual succession of triumphal entries, great and enthusiastic demonstrations of devotion and worship. There are abundant other sources of information,

however, which furnish another view of the subject. The AUSTRIAN Government is a good deal annoyed with proceedings, or rather significant warnings, from ITALY. The British Government is represented as urging the speedy evacuation of Tuscany and the Papal domains, and the Austrians would gladly withdraw their forces if they were desired. Lord DUNDY's Government is said to be an unsatisfactory one to the bureaucrats at Vienna as Lord JOHN RUSSELL's was. The Austrians have undoubtedly had "a finger in Louis NAPOLEON's matrimonial pie," and have prevented its being served up at present. The Princess of WARA and her daughter, the Princess CAROLA, had arrived at Stuttgart, on their way to Vienna. Congresses of all kinds are in fashion in Germany. Commencing with Emperors and Kings, they run through all the gradations of Prime Ministers, Military Commissioners, Zollverein and anti-Zollverein deputies, railroad directors, post office officials, clerical dignitaries, heads of schools, chiefs of police, and antiquarians, and learned and scientific professors. The last we have heard of is a Congress of short-hand writers at Mayence. The HANNOVERIAN Government is busy itself with proclamations against the Anabaptists, and threaten with imprisonment any missionary of that sect who shall attempt to preach in the Hanoverian territory. We have not heard whether the appearance of a modern JOHN OF LEYDEN is dreaded. The DUTCH Ministry is about effecting the conversion of the nation four per cent. into three per cent. The amount of stock which will be affected by this operation is two hundred and thirty-seven and a half millions of florins, about £24,000,000 sterling. The information has been well received on the Bourse at Amsterdam. The BELGIAN Government does not intend to renew the treaty of commerce with the German Zollverein, which expires on the 31st of December next. It is stated that the pending negotiations between BELGIUM and FRANCE will not allow the former Government to assign fixed bases to the future commercial relations between itself and the Zollverein. Notwithstanding the trades we continually meet with about the social and political disorganization of IRELAND, there is some evidence to be gleaned that it shares in the general improvement. Take a few items of advancement. The persons in prison in Ireland decreased during 1851 from 9,984 to 8,803. The cases tried at assizes and quarter sessions were, in 1850, 31,826, in 1851 only 24,684. The outrages reported by the constabulary fell from 10,639 to 10,144. The persons receiving out-door relief had fallen from 832,889 on 1st of July, 1848, to 10,935 on 26th April, 1851, and to 3,438 on 24th of April, 1852. The rate of mortality in workhouses had fallen from 25 per 1,000 weekly to 64 per 1,000. The total number of persons in the workhouses last 24th April was 186,453, being a reduction of twenty-seven per cent during the year. All this is very cheering.

AUGUST 27.—The only news of the morning is the arrival of M. DE PERSIGNY, the French Minister and confidential adviser of LOUIS NAPOLEON, in London. His object is said to be a discussion with the British Government of various topics of political and commercial interest affecting Great Britain and France. It is believed in Paris that it is the intention of the President to effect a reduction of the standing army of France, and that the knowledge of such intention has caused the rise in the French funds. It is further understood that, fully perceiving the importance of cementing the commercial, and by this means the political, ties of the two countries, he is about to make overtures in the direction of mutual commercial concessions, which, if carried out, will have a vast influence on several British staples. The wines of France, and the coal, iron, and linens of England will probably form the chief articles, the duties on which will be subjected to discussion.

FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, AUGUST 31, 1852.

Since the date of my last the *Moniteur* finds ample occupation in recording, for the enlightenment of France and the world, telegraphic despatches from the departments conveying intelligence of the first proceedings of the General Councils of the departments, whose sittings commenced about a week ago. These Councils, which are the most important local assemblies in France, one for each department, (eighty-six in all), have very recently been entirely renewed. So many of the old members refused the new political oath of fidelity to the Prince Louis NAPOLEON, and partial resignations became so numerous, that Government determined to dissolve them all, and appeal again to the people; not doubting that universal suffrage, under the same influence and guidance which secured such satisfactory results in the late legislative elections, would render councils-general of a composition more congenial to the actual political institutions of the country. This expectation was not disappointed. Departments hitherto most Democratic and Socialist; departments hitherto the most Orleanist or Legitimist, have returned to the councils (I believe without exception) zealous Imperialists, to compose the majorities in those bodies.

Their congenial action was further secured by the nomination (a right which, departing from the rule under the monarchy, the Prince LOUIS NAPOLEON has reserved to himself) of presiding officers of approved devotion to himself. The result has been of a most satisfactory character. With greater unanimity and enthusiasm than even the Councils of Arrondissement, of which I spoke last week, the *General Councils* are playing into the Prince's hands. I must give to-day a few specimens of the Imperial resolutions by which the Councils have commended their labors. These will be similar to those transmitted last week, emanating from the inferior councils of arrondissement; but it is desirable to note them as another phase of the transition which the political form is now undergoing in France. The history of popular Government cannot show in any part of the world, at any epoch, the manufacture of public sentiment for the ends of a private ambition, to an extent or with a success at all comparable to that of which we are now witnesses in France. The spectacle must be profoundly humiliating to every reflecting Frenchman. It is of a nature to make him and intelligent men every where despair of the fitness of this people for self-government for many long years to come. A game which we see played by parties in counties, and some in States of our country, is here being played over the whole territory of France, and upon the whole mass of the population. We see, first, the people in their primary assemblies, and afterwards the select bodies of educated, talented, and wealthy men, issue of universal suffrage, follow without hesitation, without scruple, without any regard to the contrary principles which they have all their lives professed, the political impulse given by a perjured Prince, who by force seized the Government, and audaciously took possession of France as of his private property. A people who can be thus led, who can be thus driven, is only fit to be a Bonaparte in the saddle. We shall see some "tail riding."

The Council General of the department of *Aude* thus addresses the Prince:

"Prince: Some months ago, France, gazing in the fold of a constitution indefinitely assented to its genius, was suddenly striking as it approached the brink of an inevitable abyss. Its day of doom was marked. On the 2d December a potent breath raised her up again, and restored her to life. Ten years of assured future was an immense blessing for her. Enfeebled and fainting, her state did not then admit of a more complete revivification. To you, Prince, is the immortal glory of having saved her! It is you that have opened an assured path before her. But its length is limited. Its term, distant to be sure, thanks to your vigorous initiative, still fires, however, every eye. Evil passions are promising to meet there. All passions are regarding it with terror. Prince! complete your work! Let no sentiment of inquietude and anxiety longer mingle with the acclamations of which a grateful people is hailing your glorious name! Let stable and definitive institutions, in harmony with the manners, with the past, with the wants of the nation, rise at last like a barrier never to be passed, in the sight of our countrymen. And in making itself the respectful and faithful interpreter of this desire, the General Council of *Aude* is obeying at once the inspirations of its patriotism and the dictates of its gratitude."

The Council General of *Ariège* expresses the earnest hope that the Senate, in the exercise of the powers given to it by the constitution, and appealing if need be to the nation, will so modify our institutions as to restore to the Executive power, in the person of the Prince Louis NAPOLEON, the stability and the hereditary form which are capable of saving us from new revolutions."

The General Council of *Vaucluse*, "considering that the temporary powers conferred upon the Prince President do not respond either to the genius of our institutions or to the nature of our interests, and of our habits, or to the services which Louis NAPOLEON has rendered to the country, and which he is yet to render—considering, finally, that the empire is the only governmental form which, partaking both of the monarchy and of the republic, of the first by its hereditary character, of the last by election, can satisfy all parties and realize their fusion into one great national party, resolves that it is the Council's desire to see the Empire re-established in the person of the Prince Louis NAPOLEON, and his descendants; and to this effect the Council desires that, in conformity to articles 31 and 32 of the constitution, a *senatus consultum* be proposed for the acceptance of the French people."

The department of *Yonne*, whose vote first recalled Bonaparte from exile, and gave him a place in the Constituent Assembly of 1848, thus addresses him through its Council General:

"Prince: This department, whose patriotic instinct pre-empted so surely, and anticipated the proofs of sympathy which other portions of the country were about to render you, glories to-day in its vote of 8th June, 1848. But it is at this early day, such faith in your person, *seigneur*, has marked the love which is borne to your name grow and strengthen in the hearts of its inhabitants, as you have been seen to realize, to surpass even, those prophetic expectations. Soon this department, like all the other departments, like universal France, pacified by your advent, was called upon to associate with you with the respect, the admiration, and the gratitude which it cherished for the Emperor. Prince, this was justice, for the work which you have commenced, and which you will complete, was equally meritorious with that of your immortal uncle, and was even more difficult than his. Already have you restored security to France, and the first institutions with which you have just endowed her have repaired many evils. Prosperity is returning to us. The present is calm. The future has ceased to terrify you, your lofty reason, in accordance with your patriotism, yielding to our dearest wish, will make you desirous that the blessings we enjoy should be perpetuated. Your inspirations have not deceived you. You alone have comprehended the situation of the country from the first moment of your return to French soil. You alone were not content to be to variable emotions. You alone have understood how it might be saved. Continue, then, monseigneur, to follow your inspirations. Yes, your task is a great one, monseigneur, but you will accomplish it, and then history will inscribe your name next after that which occupies the first place in the annals of the world!"

One other instance shall close our extracts from the *Moniteur*, containing the record of the proceedings of the General Councils. The last despatches have nearly come in. Of the eighty-six departments, but two or three remain to be heard from. All have passed resolutions tending to the same end. In no instance has the shadow of reproach or even of disapprobation been emitted. In no instance has even the censure which might be implied from silence been permitted. In a word, the demonstration of the Councils General has been perfectly satisfactory to the Elysée and its courtiers.

Here are the resolves passed in the department of *Puy-de-Dome*, whose council is presided by the celebrated ex-Minister, DE MORNY, uterine brother of the Prince LOUIS NAPOLEON. The appointment of his brother to the Presidency of the Council-General of *Puy-de-Dome* is proof of the uninterrupted fraternal relations between Louis NAPOLEON and DE MORNY; and the continued holding from DE MORNY of all political functions, evinces perhaps the continued pressure of those private family influences of which I have spoken in former letters as having determined his temporary elimination or retirement from public affairs. I say temporary retirement, for I anticipate of course the defeat of the Jerome-Bonapartists in the establishment of the hereditary empire, with the right in the Emperor of nominating a successor in case of the failure of legitimate descendants. That question settled, the motives for the exclusion of DE MORNY from public affairs will in a great measure rest upon the Jerome-Bonapartists, and we may then look to see this really able and devoted personal partisan of the Prince President take the part in politics to which his talents and character entitle him. The General Council of *Puy-de-Dome*, which may be presumed to have acted under the "inspiration," passed the following address to Louis NAPOLEON:

"MONSIEUR: By the great act of 2d of December you have restored to disquieted and menaced France security and confidence. The Council-General of *Puy-de-Dome*, in token of its profound gratitude, desires to name a department which has ever hailed you with the most patriotic enthusiasm, and which has never ceased to place in you alone its hope of salvation. But the work is not yet finished, Prince! When the term of a temporary power draws high, confidence is paralyzed; the national industry is compromised; the existence of the country is put in question. Stability in government is the indispensable condition of a nation's prosperity and grandeur. It alone can give to its commerce and enterprise its elasticity and power. Convinced of the truth of these principles, and full of trust in your person, the Council-General expresses the hope that the power with which you have been invested may be established upon the broadest and most durable bases, and it confides to your patriotism the speedy realization of its hopes."

In the mean time petitions to the same end are freely circulating among the people all over France. Here is a sample of one of them:

"The undersigned, penetrated with gratitude toward the Prince who has saved France, convinced that the public tranquillity is indissolubly connected with the stability of the public authority, full of trust in the patriotism and wisdom of Louis NAPOLEON, prays that he may be proclaimed Emperor of the French."

On the margin of the sheet is written the following note: "When this petition is filled, send it back to the Prefect."

Now that the General-Councils and the Councils of Arrondissements have made their demonstrations in favor of the empire, the interim which is to elapse before the convocation of the Senate (some three or four months probably) will be spent in amassing petitions like the above, and in popularity-hunting visits to the departments. One of the earliest measures of the Senate at its meeting will be to emit the necessary *senatus consultum*, recommending the submission of the question of the empire to the people. The consent of the Prince and the acclamation of the people are certain as any thing in the future can be. No interested family opposition; no hostility of parties in France; no repugnance of the leading European Powers, or terror of the minor neighboring States can avail. LOUIS NAPOLEON will soon place the imperial crown upon his head, unless the pistol or the dagger of some miscreant should take his life. Yet no philanthropist or intelligent friend of France can desire this event. He obtained power, to be sure, by most exceptional means—he will certainly use it for no other ends than did his uncle; there will be no hope for French liberty under his Government; a remorseless, selfish, vulgar ambition will dictate all his acts, but some of the essential conditions of society will be assured by him, and even these would be fearfully imperilled, if not utterly lost, by the present ruler of France to fall by the assassin's hand. If I saw his person alone interpose between France and the practical, wise, moderate republic, let the Brutus arise and do his work; the despot would deserve his fate. But LOUIS NAPOLEON is only one of a thousand obstacles to the enjoyment of regulated liberty in France. Anarchy, which would only be put an end to by a despotism of equal intensity, would quickly follow his assassination. For a hundred years yet, if not forever, France will find its only safety in a Government which, call it what you may, must be *despotic*.

We have from France this week no political intelligence but what is connected with this movement toward the empire. The Prince is about to commence his longest and most important tour through the provinces. The itinerary of his route has just been published. He will leave Paris the middle of this month, and will spend some four or five weeks visiting the principal cities of the Centre, south, and southwest.

The attention of the Academy of Sciences of Paris has just been called to one of the most extraordinary and inexplicable of the phenomena of the heavens—the falling stars. What they are, whence they come, whether they go, is yet a mystery. The only certainty in relation to them which seems to be established is that of their periodic appearance twice a year to observers on our earth. Very few during the first six months of the year, these

meteors gradually increase in frequency till they reach their first maximum about the 10th of August. Their number then diminishes to augment again, and attain the second maximum about the 13th of November. It was at this second annual period in 1833 that the most wonderful exhibition of this phenomenon that remains upon record took place. A French savant, M. COURCELIER, has for many years past made these meteors the subject of special observation and study. A sort of observatory has been prepared for him at the Palace of Luxembourg, in Paris, and a liberal allowance of money has been accorded to aid him in his studies. He has just communicated to the Academy the result of his observations during the continuance of the critical period which has just passed. The observer reports during the